

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON:LB

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

S/S-O: MTANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 177829

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US, LE, EG, IR, SY

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM ASAD REGARDING LEBANON

REF: AMMAN 3751

1. FYI: WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION TO CONFIRM ASAD'S DESCRIPTION, AS CONVEYED THROUGH HUSSEIN, OF SOVIET PRESSURES ON SYRIA. WE ALSO HAVE NO BASIS, HOWEVER, FOR JUDGING THAT ASAD'S DESCRIPTION IS INCORRECT. UNTIL WE ARE MORE CERTAIN OF THE FACTS, WE CANNOT BE TOO SPECIFIC IN RESPONDING TO HUSSEIN AND ASAD. AT SAME TIME, WE WANT TO GIVE THEM PROMPTLY AN INDICATION OF GENERAL SUPPORT. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE CONVEY FOLLOWING RESPONSE IMMEDIATELY TO HUSSEIN. END FYI.

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2. BEGIN MESSAGE: WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED HIS MAJESTY'S PASSING ALONG TO US ASAD'S CONCERNS ABOUT SOVIET PRESSURE ON SYRIA. THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US, AND WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION IN THIS RESPECT. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH INFORMATION WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO US. WE WILL BE GIVING THIS SITUATION PARTICULAR ATTENTION AS A RESULT OF HIS MAJESTY'S APPROACH TO US. IT WOULD BE A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN TO US IF THE SOVIETS WERE TO EXERCISE THIS

KIND OF PRESSURE ON SYRIA. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WOULD TAKE EVERY STEP POSSIBLE TO ENABLE SYRIA TO PRESERVE AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL POLICY, AND WE WOULD ENCOURAGE OUR FRIENDS TO DO LIKEWISE. AS WE HAVE OFTEN TOLD ASAD, WE HAVE A STRONG INTEREST IN SYRIA'S PURSUING AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL POLICY. WE WILL BE STUDYING IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WHAT STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US TO HAVE SOME MORE PRECISE IDEA OF WHAT PRESIDENT ASAD HAS IN MIND.

3. WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON, AS HIS MAJESTY KNOWS, WE HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION BASED ON THE FORMULA WORKED OUT IN JANUARY, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

4. WE LOOK FORWARD TO STAYING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIS MAJESTY AND WITH THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENTS OF WHICH ASAD HAS SPOKEN, AND WE WILL MEANWHILE BE CONSIDERING THE ISSUES HE HAS RAISED.

5. PLEASE TELL HIS MAJESTY THAT HE CAN COMMUNICATE FURTHER WITH ME AT ANY TIME THROUGH AMBASSADOR HELMS WHILE HE IS VISITING IRAN. PLEASE CONVEY TO HIS MAJESTY MY WARM PERSONAL REGARDS AND PLEASE ASK HIM, IN PASSING FOREGOING TO ASAD, ALSO TO CONVEY MY WARM PERSONAL REGARDS TO PRESIDENT ASAD. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, PSDC, PREL, IR, SY, UR, JO, US, LE, EG, (HUSSEIN I), (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (ASAD, HAFIZ)
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